

**WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012  
MINUTES  
7:00 P.M.**

**Present:** David A. Rempell, Chairman, Tom Costley, Thomas E. Sheldon, Jane B. Allen, Ronald Turbin

**Others Present:** Tim Kaiser, Mark Reinhardt, Susan Puddester, Van Ellet, Philip McKnight, Beth Phelps, Chris Winters, Jamie Bairstow, Jack Nogueira, Hank Art, Brian O'Grady, Bill Barkin, Kyle Johnson, Leigh Short, Brendan Burns, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Rempell announced that Mr. Fohlin will light the new 1753 House fireplace (paid for with CPA funds) on Thursday, November 15 at 4 pm. All are invited. Mr. Turbin added that he attended the Williamstown Youth Center's grand opening on Sunday and said he was very impressed. He urged residents to go and take a tour.
- 2. SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** October 22, 2012 Regular and October 22, 2012 Executive Session - Mr. Costley moved to approve, with corrections, the October 22, 2012 regular minutes. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0. Mr. Sheldon moved to approve the October 22, 2012 executive session minutes. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.
- 3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**

A. Spruces MHC Update – Mr. Fohlin reported that he and other town officials met with residents of the Spruces Mobile Home Park earlier today. He read from an informational document that was distributed to the attendees and said a 75 minute question and answer period followed. Mr. Fohlin said residents were calm but very concerned. **(Document attached as A)**

Mr. Fohlin read **and** distributed the document for the attendees of this meeting and invited questions from the audience. Conservation Commission Chair Hank Art said the choice of the Lowry Property was not a surprise but added that the property is currently in Conservation Restriction. He asked about the legal procedure in lifting the restriction. Mr. Art also reported that the Conservation Commission just approved a three-year permit for a local farmer to hay the land for three years.

Mr. Fohlin said he has sent appropriate information to our town counsel and expects answers within a month. With regard to the haying permit, Mr. Fohlin said clause #14 of the license says that the license could be terminated with 60 days notice.

Community Preservation Committee Chairman Phil McKnight asked if the appropriate state and federal agencies are aware of the application. Mr. Fohlin said that they are and that the Town is working with them very closely. Mr. McKnight asked why the Phototech and old town garage sites weren't being considered for this project. Mr. Fohlin said that

the Photech property would be costly to remediate and that the old town garage site is too small.

Affordable Housing Committee Chairman Cathy Yamamoto thanked the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, Town Boards and employees for their hard work over the past 14 months. She said this plan presents a wonderful opportunity for the Town to be able to rise to the occasion in helping the residents of the Spruces to move out of harms way.

Mr. Sheldon asked Mr. Fohlin about possible scenarios he and his staff envision for the Lowry Property. Mr. Fohlin said that there would be many ideas considered over the next few months. He said that he, the Town Planner, and the DPW director have been working on a plan similar to that of Haley Village in its early days. They are looking at “Irene Cottages” as constructed in Vermont, said to be energy and space efficient as well as affordable. The smallest “Irene Cottage” is similar to a single-wide trailer, the medium – similar to a double- wide trailer and the largest – similar to a small house.

Mobile Home Rent Control Board Chairman Jack Nogueira asked how many homes could be built on a 30-acre lot. Mr. Fohlin said that that would be determined when we get an engineering report.

Williamstown Housing Authority Chairman Mark Reinhardt asked how the residents of the Spruces took the news. Mr. Fohin said he observed a very attentive and engaged group with only one resident who vented his anger and frustration, but quickly apologized.

Ms. Puddester of Higher Ground said the goal of Higher Ground is to create safe housing for those who have displaced. Higher Ground will continue to help in any way that it can.

Mr. Fohlin said his goal is to provide a safe place for those residents still living in the flood plane, for those displaced when their trailers were condemned, and for those families who want to live in affordable housing in Williamstown. He said another meeting will be scheduled at the Spruces in December.

**B.** Alcoholic Beverage Compliance Check Failure – Taconic Williamstown Corporation, d/b/a The Williams Inn – Chief Johnson reported that compliance checks were conducted at 23 licensed establishments on November 6, 2012. Of the 23, there was one failure at the Williams Inn when two minors were served beer without being asked to provide identification. Chief Johnson said the Williams Inn has been checked nine previous times and has always passed. Mr. Turbin moved that a written request be sent to the management of Williams Inn to appear at the December 10, 2012 Selectmen meeting at 7 p.m. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

**C.** Selectmen Appointment – Affordable Housing Committee (1-year term) – Ms. Allen moved to appoint Leigh Short to a one-year term, expiring June 30, 2013, on the Affordable Housing Committee. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

**D.** December Meeting Schedule – Ms. Allen moved to cancel the December 24, 2012 Selectmen’s meeting. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

**E.** Water & Sewer Warrant - \$163,266.45 – Ms. Allen moved to approve the water and sewer warrant for \$163,266.44. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

**F.** Set Fee for Special License for the Sale of Wine produced by Farmer-Winery for off-Premise Consumption at Indoor or Outdoor Agricultural Events Pursuant to Chapter 183, Section 15F. Mr. Costley moved to set a fee of \$10.00 per program – for example (One permit for Williamstown Farmers Market May-October) (One permit for Berkshire Grown Farmers Market Event – one day in November and one day in December) for Special License for the Sale of Wine produced by Farmer-Winery for off-Premise Consumption at Indoor or Outdoor Agricultural Events Pursuant to Chapter 183, Section 15F. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

**4. LICENSES AND PERMITS:**

**A.** Application for License to Sell Honey Wine (Mead) at the Berkshire Grown Holiday Farmer’s Markets. Brendan Burns of Green River Ambrosia LLC requested a license to sell Honey Wine at the Berkshire Grown Holiday Farmer’s Market on Sunday, November 18 and December 16 from 10 am to 2 pm. Mr. Costley moved to approve the request. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0.

Addendum (November 14, 2012) ABCC Director Ralph Sacramone contacted the Town Manager’s office and clarified that sales of alcohol to be drunk off premises can not be made until 12 pm on Sundays. Brendan Burns was notified by e-mail to change the time on his license to read 12 pm to 2 pm. Chief Johnson and the Selectmen were notified by email of the change.

**B.** 2013 Annual License Renewals Part 1 (see attached list) Mr. Turbin moved to approve the 2013 Annual License renewals as presented. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0. (**Attachment B**)

**5. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:** See Attached.

**6. PETITIONERS’ REQUESTS:** None

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**8. ADJOURN:** Mr. Costley moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried 5-0-0. The next Selectmen’s meeting is Monday, November 26, 2012- 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Turbin, Secretary